

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the through consideration given the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 10, 12 and 13 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth below.

Allowable Subject Matter

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner considers the subject matter of claim 8 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitations of claims 4 and 8. Accordingly, all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Art Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by JP5-152776. Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over JP5-152776. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over JP5-152776 in view of Ferchau et al. (US Patent 4,899,254). Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over JP5-152776. Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious JP5-152776 in view of McAnlly et al. (US Patent 5,788,566). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

By way of the present Amendment, Applicants have rewritten claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 4 and 8. Since the Examiner has indicated that claim 8 is allowable over all of these references, it is submitted that claim 1 is therefore also allowable. Since the remaining claims depend from claim 1, they are also considered to be allowable.

Conclusion


In view of the above remarks, it is believed that all of the claims are now allowable as indicated by the Examiner. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert F. Gnuse Reg. No. 27,295 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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